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“ I have thought that it would not be without interest to the Academy, to see how a large collection has been formed, in about thirty years, by energetic exertions, continued in spite of great difficulties ; and how the collection, after those difficulties have been overcome, now stands as a national monument, supported alike by the Government and by the people. I doubt not that the Collection of this Academy, which in a few years has attained such magnitude, will, if carried on with the same energy, be soon of so much importance, and gain so great a name in Europe, that it will receive that strong support, both from the Government and the inhabitants of Ireland, which it at present wants.

“ If you will allow me I shall, at another meeting, institute a short comparison between the antiquities in the Irish and Danish collections. It is only through such a comparison of the antiquities in different countries, that a new light will be thrown over the many dark periods of the early history of Europe ; and I hope that the connexion, which in ancient times existed between Ireland and Scandinavia, will give me a peculiar advantage in illustrating the origin and use of some antiquities in the collection of the Academy.”

Rev. Samuel Butcher read a paper by Rev. Dr. Hincks, in continuation of his researches in the Persepolitan writing.

In this paper Dr. Hincks shows, that the general principles respecting the Persian writing, which he had laid down in his former communication on this subject,* are borne out by the Bisitun inscriptions, recently published by Major Rawlinson. The values which, in his former paper, Dr. Hincks had assigned to four of the characters, he admits to be erroneous, and, accordingly, now corrects them ; but maintains that the values assigned by him to the remaining characters are the true ones, and adduces the new inscriptions in proof thereof. With re-

* “ On the first and second kinds of Persepolitan writing,” by the Rev. E. Hincks, D. D. (*Vid. Proceedings*, vol. iii. p. 262).

spect also to the author's Median Alphabet, as given in the same paper, he now makes a few slight corrections, which, however, do not affect the general views there stated regarding that language. Dr. Hincks further gives a Babylonian alphabet or syllabary, exhibiting the values of sixty-five characters of the third Persepolitan writing, and of one hundred and twenty-eight of the Babylonian lapidary characters : placing the Babylonian characters in juxtaposition with the corresponding Persepolitan ones. He adds an analysis of fourteen proper names written in the latter character, and of two in the former ; and he points out the mode of reading them in the different forms under which they appear in the inscriptions. Dr. Hincks moreover states, that, with the exception of a few letters, to which correct values had been assigned by Professor Grotefend, and a few others to which the same author had approximated, nothing in the right direction had hitherto been published concerning these two last-mentioned kinds of writing.

The Rev. Charles Graves read a paper on the date of the manuscript commonly called the Book of Armagh.*

Shortly after the Book of Armagh had been deposited in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, Mr. Graves observed, on a careful examination, that numerous erasures had been made in it. These occur at the end of the following writings contained in the volume :

1. The Confession of St. Patrick, fol. 24, *b*.
2. The Gospel of St. Matthew, fol. 52, *b*.
3. The Gospel of St. Mark, fol. 67, *b*.
4. The Gospel of St. Luke, fol. 89, *b*.
5. The Revelation of St. John, fol. 170, *a*.
6. The Acts of the Apostles, fol. 190, *a*.
7. The second Book of the Life of St. Martin of Tours, fol. 214, *a*.
8. A letter of Sulpicius Severus, fol. 220, *a*.

* For an account of this manuscript see Transactions, vol. xx. p. 329.